

East Shore District Health Department
688 East Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Executive Board Meeting November 14, 2019

RECEIVED

-Present: Dennis Nastri, Susan Addiss, Elaine Anderson, Angela Carrano, Michael Pascucilla, Virginia Fallon, Brian Wnek, Sarah Esenther

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

-Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM by Dennis Nastri

-Correspondence:

A letter from Wayne Cooke of Branford was received. He has environmental concerns that the Atlantic Wire building that was taken down in Branford is unsafe. The building has been tested and reviewed by CT DEEP, CT DPH, the Environmental Profession, and ESDHD and no imminent hazards or concerns to public safety were found. He expressed concerns about asbestos in the brick. Michael Pascucilla had two bricks tested and they were found to no contamination/asbestos.

-A letter from the Commissioner of Public Health was received describing state vaccination policy. Eliminating the religious exemption from vaccination requirements was recommended for institution in the 2021-2022 school year.

-A MOU between ESDHD and United Way was received detailing \$1,500.00 received for the maternal child health program for toys, clothes, gift cards for parent participation incentives

-ESDHD is considering purchasing an awning for the building and submitted a picture of the proposed structure.

-October Minutes approved.

-Old Business:

-Volunteer Recognition Event: Acknowledging 3 flu clinic volunteers and 8-10 Short Beach and Farm River volunteers at Home restaurant in Branford on November 19. Senator Cohen will be presenting state citations. Agenda has been finalized. Three of the Board members present will be attending.

-Overdose Data to Action DPH Grant Application Update: Submitted grant for opioid abuse prevention and data analysis grant for \$260,000/year grant for three years (if fully funded). Working with seven health districts representing total population of over 300,000; over 30 letters of recommendation submitted. Approval or rejection will be received by the end of the month.

-New Business:

-Guest Speaker, Financial Planner Christopher Thompson: Five years ago \$100,000.00 (originally intended for an ESDHD building) was invested in a 5-year CD. It has been receiving \$2,000.00 dividends per year and is now worth \$112,000.00 in a money market brokerage account. Given low interest rates, options now include: **1) CDs**. Long-term investing (CD) is unfavorable. Short term investments include **2) bond ladder** (buy ten bonds with one maturing each year from 2020-2029. Interest rates similar to CDs, but provides more liquidity). Christopher Thompson recommends **3) large cap, high dividend market investments** but needs to be informed of any requirements for socially responsible investments. Large cap, high dividend is expected to yield ~3.6% dividend yield in addition to principal growth. If market goes down, the investment will likely still yield dividends, but market risk but be justified to taxpayers. **4) Index funds** would be a higher risk, more liquid option. Lowest risk, lowest yield option would be continuing **5) money market**. Considerations include liquidity, risk, market expectations, and timeline for potential money use (building lease ends in three years).

-Guest Speaker, Auditor Michael Solakian (Solakian and Company LLC): Small increase in municipal and state funding, additional grant funding received, fee income (primarily flu vaccine) increased. Expenses are similar except for significant increase in health insurance. This year lost \$50,000.00, less than \$150,000.00 loss last year (including car depreciations). No significant material weaknesses. ESDHD has implemented audit/cost controls: Examples include - inspectors cannot take money, inspectors are rotated between restaurants, other ESDHD groups also work with restaurants and would likely be aware of unethical relationships. Other controls include: two signatures on every check, department has only two credit cards (Marsha and Michael), no food is purchased without PO, inspectors are not allowed to receive free meals (though beverages such as water may be acceptable), ethical trainings included in staff orientations, moving to app. to record mileage.

Session with Michael Solakian motioned by Dennis, seconded by Virginia. Started at 7:09 PM, ended at 7:10 PM.

-Director's Report:

Executive session started at 7:09 PM, ended at 7:30PM

-Staff Vacancies: Open sanitarian position. One fell through because candidate works for FDA and would create a conflict of interest, other had limited length of time available with school. Looking to hire part time employee.

-Research Journal Submissions: Pumpout boat manuscript finished, submitting to international journal. Submitted preemptive closure report to journal, but withdrawn because of credibility issues (after received peer reviews), revise, submit to an International Journal. Noise study phase 1 finished, abstract has been accepted for presentation at World Aquaculture Society in February in Hawaii (on grant funding from Southern CT State University and Noise study grant).

-Holiday Gathering: Friday, December 13, 2019 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

-PHAB Accreditation Status: Still working on requirements, but moving forward and on track to submit in January. Will cost ~\$14,000.00, however accreditation brings eligibility for grant funding opportunities in the future.

-Union Contract Negotiation Committee/New Contract: Work in progress, but will likely conclude before December holidays.

-ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing): Activity reports passed around to board members.

-ESDHD Budget 2020-2021: Finalizing per capita for towns, then Mike will finish budget outline.

Dennis motioned for adjournment, seconded by Virginia. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Esenther